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15. (Once amended)

The device according to claim 1, wherein said brim fastening element is located proximal to said access aperture of said hollow element.

17. (Once amended)

The device according to claim 1, wherein said mobile walls are articulated in a telescopic relationship therebetween.

18. (Once amended)

The device according to claim 1 further comprising a protective sheath disposed along the internal walls of said hollow element.

20. (Once amended)

The device according to claim 1, wherein said brim fastening element is disposable and separable from said hollow element.

REMARKS

Applicant has now canceled claim 16 and amended claims 15, 17-18 and 20 to make them dependent on claim 1 as amended with Applicant's last letter of September 13, 2002. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Mr. Alessandro Steinfl, who has contacted the Examiner by phone during the month of August 2002, will call the Examiner during the next week to further discuss the present application, should the need arise.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

Respectfully submitted,

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Encls.:

- Appendix A

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax. No. (703)872-9303 on September 19, 2002

Ross A. Schmitt
(Name of Applicant, Assignee or Registered Representative)

Signature

September 19, 2002 Date

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<u>APPENDIX A</u>

MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS

15. (Once amended)

The device according to claim [14] 1, wherein said <u>brim</u> fastening [ring] <u>element</u> is located proximal to said access aperture of said hollow element.

17. (Once amended)

The device according to claim [14] 1, wherein said mobile walls are articulated in a telescopic relationship therebetween.

18. (Once amended)

The device according to claim [14]. 1 further comprising a protective sheath disposed along the internal walls of said hollow element.

20. (Once amended)

The device according to claim [14] 1, wherein said brim fastening [ring] element is disposable and separable from said hollow element.

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